

Amendments to the Claims:

1           1-9. (Cancelled)

1           10. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said needle  
2 apparatus further includes a biopsy needle guide through which said hollow core needle is  
3 inserted, and said hollow core needle functions as said RF electrode.

1           11-14. (Cancelled)

1           15. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said substance  
2 includes an image contrasting agent for use in said determining of the volume of body tissue  
3 penetrated.

1           16. (Cancelled)

1           17. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said substance  
2 includes a component selected from the group consisting of tissue necrosis agents, thereby  
3 causing selective tissue necrosis in said the volume of body tissue.

1           18-19. (Cancelled)

1           20. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein each microsphere  
2 includes a container holding therein a substance for providing image enhancement for use in  
3 determining said volume when ~~said~~ the imaging technique is ultrasound.

1           21. (Currently amended) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein ~~said~~ the volume is  
2 in a prostate, and wherein said method is for treating a condition selected from the group

3 consisting of ~~benigh~~ benign prostatic hyperplasia and prostate cancer, and wherein said inserting  
4 is accomplished by a method selected from the group consisting of transrectal, transurethral and  
5 transperineal approaches.

1 22-23. (Cancelled)

1 24. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said method is  
2 applied for the treatment of a body part selected from group consisting of prostate, liver, uterus,  
3 bladder, kidney, lung, and breast.

1 25. (Original) A method as recited in claim 24 wherein said inserting is accomplished  
2 using an approach selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, laparoscopic, and  
3 endoscopic.

1 26-29. (Cancelled)

1 30. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said guiding is  
2 further performed using a device selected from the group consisting of biopsy apparatus,  
3 laparoscope, endoscope, hysteroscope, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed  
4 tomography scan (CT scan), and ultrasound imaging apparatus.

1 31-32. (Cancelled)

1 33. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said inserting is  
2 performed by at least one method selected from the group consisting of percutaneous, through an  
3 incision, through a natural body opening, and a laparoscopic approach.

1 34-36. (Cancelled)

1 37. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said substance  
2 further includes a chemotherapy agent selected from the group consisting of hypertonic saline

3 solution, acetic acid, ethanol and other tissue necrosing agents, and wherein said substance  
4 further includes a binding agent.

1 38. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein each said  
2 microsphere further includes a gas.

1 39. (Original) A method as recited in claim 38 wherein said gas is selected from the  
2 group consisting of air, helium, fluorocarbon, and carbon dioxide.

1 40. (Original) A method as recited in claim 37 wherein said binding agent is selected  
2 from the group consisting of biomaterial, polymer, biodegradable polymer, a suspension agent, a  
3 derivative of a protein, fat, collagen, and oil.

1 41. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said substance  
2 includes a conductive component selected from the group consisting of conductive polymers,  
3 conductive agents, conductive elements, carbon particles, and metallic suspensions.

1 42. (Previously presented) A method as recited in claim 43 wherein said  
2 microspheres include a conductive gel within said container.

1 43. (Currently amended) A method for treating a localized portion of body tissue in a  
2 body comprising:

3 a) inserting a needle apparatus into the body tissue, said apparatus including  
4 at least one hollow core needle for delivering an electrically conductive  
5 substance into ~~said~~ the body tissue, said substance conveyed in [[a]]  
6 entirely biodegradable microsphere containers, whereby the substance is  
7 limited to a localized portion of the body tissue;

- 8                   b)     guiding said needle apparatus to a desired volume of the body tissue in  
9                   need of treatment, said guiding including use of a non-invasive imaging  
10                  technique for viewing inside an area of the body tissue;  
11                  c)     applying said substance to ~~said~~ the body tissue through said needle  
12                  apparatus;  
13                  d)     determining that ~~said~~ the volume of ~~said~~ the body tissue is penetrated by  
14                  said substance; and  
15                  e)     applying radio frequency (RF) energy to said substance through an RF  
16                  electrode to ablate the volume of the body tissue, wherein said substance  
17                  serves as an electrode extension conducting said RF energy throughout  
18                  said the volume.